

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are currently active. Claims 1-4 have been amended by the current amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,193,314 to Wormley et al.

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention (claim 1 as amended) is directed to a method for producing a turbine blade or vane. To that end, claim 1 defines the steps of providing the turbine blade or vane in a casting mold; fixing the casting in a first position, the first position corresponding to a predetermined position for the casting to be subjected to a pre-designed machining process; rotating the casting around the longitudinal axis of the turbine blade or vane from a first position to a second position, and subjecting the casting in the second position to the machining process without modifying steps of said pre-designed machining process.

As a consequence of these steps, any changes to the turbine blade or vane made after development has been concluded can be implemented by rotating the casting before applying the pre-designed machining process. See the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the specification. The rotation step enables the leading-edge angle of the turbine blade or vane to be optimized.

In contrast thereto, the Wormley et al. patent discloses a method for producing a turbine blade or vane using a computer controlled grinding machine. However, the Wormley et al. patent does not teach or suggest a method including the steps of rotating the casting around the longitudinal axis of the turbine blade or vane from a first position to a second position, and subjecting the casting in the second position to the machining process without

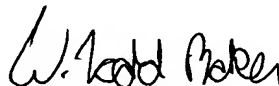
modifying steps of said pre-designed machining process. Consequently, with Wormley et al., any changes to the turbine blade or vane made after development has been concluded will result in the computer controlled grinding machine process being changed. Such a change is often complex and time consuming. With Applicants' invention, rotating the casting before applying the pre-designed machining process enables the leading-edge angle of the turbine blade or vane to be optimized in a more efficient manner.

For the foregoing reasons, Wormley et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 1. Dependent claims 2-6 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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